Approved For Release 2006/08/01 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000500270059-1

CONFIDENTIAL

11 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Representative Ogden Reid (R., N.Y.)
re Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty

1. This afternoon Mr. Cord Meyer, ADDP, and I met with Representative Reid to discuss problems created by legislation Reid has recently introduced calling for overt funding of RFE and RL. Reid explained his purpose in introducing this legislation by saying that he felt both RFE and RL were performing a useful function and should be continued, but for the good of both them and the Agency the present relationship should be discontinued. He said in confidence that, in introducing companion legislation in the Senate, Senator Case had been strongly influenced by John Marks of his staff, [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] 25X

2. Mr. Meyer then explained to Reid the history of the Katzenbach report and subsequent unsuccessful efforts to resolve the problem of the Radios. He spoke of evidence of their effectiveness, and left with Reid fact sheets containing additional details. He particularly [redacted] 25X

3. Mr. Reid said that he planned to see Senator Case Monday evening (15 February) and would try to get a clearer idea of the Senator's position in the matter. Reid said he understood Senator Fulbright planned public hearings on the issue. Mr. Meyer and I made clear our concern that such hearings at this stage could cause nothing but trouble, quite [redacted] 25X

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4. Mr. Reid said he thought the best solution would be a semi-public organization of some kind which would be financed by funds appropriated by the Congress but run by a private board subject to only loose and broad official policy guidance. He said he thought the first step would be to get some sort of a draft of such legislation and supporting material on paper to see what it would look like. In response to our question, he said he thought Congress would approve something of this kind if it had active Administration support. He remarked in confidence, however, that the White House hadn't been very skillful lately in handling some of its legislative problems. He conceded that this solution might not work, but at least it would buy some time, and force those concerned to look the facts in the face. He said that even if it should turn out that there was no choice but to continue the Radios as they are now being operated, a serious examination of alternatives along the lines he had suggested would still be a worthwhile exercise.

5. In parting, Mr. Reid agreed to let us know the results of his upcoming conversation with Senator Case. We agreed to pull together material that might be useful for preparing the kind of legislation Reid had in mind, and to explore the possibility of White House support for such legislation. 25X1

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Legislative Counsel

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Original - Subject
1 - ADDP
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